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<b>NOFORN-</b>	<b>Not Releasable to Foreign Nationals</b>
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NPIC/IEG/TFD

27 MARCH 1985

**MODIFIED ACRV M-1974 WITH SOVIET FORCES IN AFGHANISTAN (SWN)**

1. **SIGNIFICANCE:** THREE NEW, SIGNAL-ASSOCIATED VARIANTS OF A MODIFIED ACRV M-1974 HAVE BEEN FIELDIED WITH THE SOVIET FORCES IN AFGHANISTAN. ONE TYPE OF MODIFIED ACRV M-1974 HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED WITH THE SIGNAL BATTALIONS OF MOTORIZED RIFLE DIVISIONS AND WITH THE SIGNAL ELEMENTS OF INDEPENDENT MOTORIZED RIFLE BRIGADES AND REGIMENTS. TWO OF THESE VARIANTS OF THE MODIFIED ACRV M-1974 HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED WITH THE RADIO AND RADAR RECONNAISSANCE COMPANIES OF DIVISIONAL RECONNAISSANCE BATTALIONS. THE SIGHTINGS OF THESE VARIANTS SUGGEST THAT A FAMILY OF SIGNAL-ASSOCIATED MODIFIED ACRV M-1974 HAS BEEN DEVELOPED FOR THE SOVIET MILITARY. (SWN)
2. **REMARKS:** THE MODIFIED ACRV M-1974 IDENTIFIED WITH SIGNAL UNITS RETAINS THE GENERAL SHAPE, DIMENSIONS, AND CHASSIS FEATURES (SUCH AS THE PLACEMENT OF THE ENGINE VENTS AND CREW HATCHES) OF THE STANDARD ACRV M-1974. HOWEVER, THE VEHICLE DOES NOT HAVE A TURRET BUT INSTEAD APPEARS TO HAVE A RECTANGULAR BOX MOUNTED AT THE SAME LOCATION. THIS BOX RESEMBLES THE GENERATOR FREQUENTLY OBSERVED AT A SIMILAR LOCATION ON THE BTR-60PA ARMORED COMMAND VEHICLE (ACV). LONG, CYLINDRICAL PROBABLE ANTENNA CASES ARE ALSO ON THE DECK OF THE VEHICLE, ONE ON THE RIGHT FRONT AND ONE ON THE LEFT REAR. SIMILAR ANTENNA CASES ARE FREQUENTLY OBSERVED ATOP THE BTR-60PA. THE OTHER MAJOR IDENTIFYING FEATURE OF THIS VEHICLE IS THE LARGE, SQUARE BOX THAT MAY BE AN EXTERNAL GENERATOR HOUSING OR A LARGE EQUIPMENT BOX MOUNTED ON THE RIGHT REAR OF THE VEHICLE (GRAPHIC 1). (SWN)

ONE MODIFIED ACPV M-1974 HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED IN THE SIGNAL BATTALIONS OF EACH OF THE THREE MOTORIZED RIFLE DIVISIONS, WITH THE SIGNAL ELEMENTS OF THE TWO INDEPENDENT MOTORIZED RIFLE BRIGADES, AND WITH THE SIGNAL ELEMENT OF ONE OF THE TWO INDEPENDENT MOTORIZED RIFLE REGIMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN. THE VEHICLE HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

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27 MARCH 1985

BAGRAM SOVIET BARRACKS AREA  
 KUNDUZ AIRFIELD  
 SHINDAND DEPLOYMENT AREA  
 KANDAHAR SOVIET MRR BIVOUAC  
 JALALABAD ARMY CAMP SOVIET BIVOUAC 3  
 GHAZNI MILITARY CAMP SE

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(THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS CLASSIFIED SWN)

TWO VARIANTS OF THE MODIFIED ACRV M-1974 HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED WITH THE RADIO AND RADAR RECONNAISSANCE COMPANIES OF THE RECONNAISSANCE BATTALIONS OF EACH OF THE THREE SOVIET MOTORIZED RIFLE DIVISIONS IN AFGHANISTAN. THE VEHICLES RESEMBLE THE BASIC MODIFIED ACRV M-1974 MENTIONED ABOVE AND HAVE A LARGE, RECTANGULAR BOX ON THE RIGHT REAR OF THE CHASSIS. HOWEVER, THESE VARIANTS HAVE SEVERAL FEATURES NOT OBSERVED ON THE SIGNAL UNIT-ASSOCIATED VEHICLE. ONE VARIANT (HEREAFTER REFERRED TO AS TYPE I) HAS THE FOLLOWING IDENTIFYING FEATURES -- A CENTER-MOUNTED, TELESCOPING MAST-TYPE ANTENNA (PROBABLY SIMILAR TO THE HAWK EYE AND TOP BALL ANTENNAS USED ON THE BTR-60PA ACV) AND A LIGHT-TONED BOX OR COVER ON THE LEFT REAR OF THE VEHICLE -- THE VEHICLE IS OFTEN SEEN WITH A RECTANGULAR, FRAME-SUPPORTED CANVAS COVERING ON THE REAR TWO-THIRDS OF THE CHASSIS. THE SECOND VARIANT (HEREAFTER REFERRED TO AS TYPE II) DIFFERS FROM THE TYPE I IN THAT IT HAS A DARK-TONED, ROUGHLY SQUARE FRAME ON THE REAR QUARTER OF THE CHASSIS. THE TYPE II VEHICLE HAS NOT BEEN OBSERVED WITH A RAISED ANTENNA OR WITH THE MORE EXTENSIVE CANVAS COVER SEEN ON THE TYPE I VEHICLE (GRAPHICS 2 AND 3). (SWN)

THREE OF THE RECONNAISSANCE-ASSOCIATED MODIFIED ACRV M-1974 VEHICLES (TWO TYPE I AND ONE TYPE II) HAVE BEEN SEEN WITH EACH DIVISIONAL RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

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BAGRAM AIRFIELD  
SHINDAND DEPLOYMENT AREA  
KUNDUZ AIRFIELD

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